

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL**

June 16, 2026

**Commemorating Juneteenth Throughout Los Angeles County**

Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, commemorates June 19, 1865, the date when news of liberation reached enslaved people in Galveston, Texas — two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This substantial delay in liberation was not a failure of communication but a deliberate consequence of military and economic suppression.<sup>1</sup>

Because Texas was the most geographically remote state of the former Confederacy and experienced few Civil War battles, the Union Army lacked the physical presence and territorial control required to enforce the proclamation.<sup>2</sup> White slaveholders capitalized on this isolation by forcibly relocating tens of thousands of enslaved people into Texas, outrunning advancing Union lines to extract one final cotton harvest. Freedom from slavery did not come until Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay with armed federal troops to enforce General Order No. 3.<sup>3</sup>

The structural foundations of chattel slavery did not disappear with emancipation but

---

<sup>1</sup> Link: [The Historical Legacy of Juneteenth | National Museum of African American History and Culture](#)

<sup>2</sup> Link: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/juneteenth-origins.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Link: <https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/juneteenth-original-document>

**MOTION**

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

# MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

June 16, 2026

Page 2

morphed into institutional mechanisms that extract wealth and restrict the bodily autonomy of Black Americans. The forced, uncompensated labor of slavery established an economic caste system that evolved into modern housing policies like redlining and restrictive covenants.<sup>4</sup> By legally preventing Black families from purchasing property, these state-sanctioned policies institutionalized a severe racial wealth gap.<sup>5</sup> This intentional economic starvation over many generations catalyzed the overrepresentation of Black Angelenos within the unhoused population.<sup>6</sup> The historical devaluation of Black bodies inherent to slavery persists through deeply internalized biases and environmental racism.<sup>7</sup> This legacy is also evident in health outcomes, including maternal mortality rates, where Black women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than other demographics, exposing deep infrastructure biases.<sup>8</sup>

Legal frameworks intended to re-enslave Black workers also helped perpetuate modern disparities.<sup>9</sup> Following the Civil War, the criminal justice system was weaponized through Black Codes and convict leasing to criminalize Black freedom.<sup>10</sup> These surveillance and hyper-incarceration models make Black people 3.3 times more likely to be arrested in Los Angeles County (County) than white individuals.<sup>11</sup> The historical denial of the right to own businesses and contract labor has evolved into institutional barriers

---

<sup>4</sup> Link: [City of Los Angeles City Clerk](#)

Link 2: [The Historical Parallel of Systemic Racism | Essays | Fresh Writing | University of Notre Dame](#)

Link 3: [Economics of cities | Economics homework help](#)

Link 4: [Redlining-and-Racial-Covenants\\_pdfversion.pdf](#)

Link 5: [Restrictive Covenants | National Museum of African American History & Culture.](#)

<sup>5</sup> Link: [UCLA](#)

Link 2: [A 'Forgotten History' Of How The U.S. Government Segregated America : NPR](#)

<sup>6</sup> Link: [Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority](#)

<sup>7</sup> Link: [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#)

Link 2: [Historical roots of implicit bias in slavery - PMC](#)

<sup>8</sup> Link: [California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative](#)

Link 2: [https://www.preventioninstitute.org/download/pi\\_publication/node-field\\_download\\_files-2723-0](https://www.preventioninstitute.org/download/pi_publication/node-field_download_files-2723-0)

Link 3: <https://med.stanford.edu/news/insights/2024/01/california-inequity-black-patients-pregnancy-childbirth.html>

Link 4: <https://www.chcf.org/resource/advancing-black-health-equity/birth-equity/>

<sup>9</sup> Link: [Vera Institute of Justice](#)

<sup>10</sup> Link 1: [Convict Leasing](#)

Link 2: [A Different Kind of Slavery](#)

<sup>11</sup> Link: [Vera Institute's California Data Explorer](#)

Link 2: [L.A. communities of color rely on police yet are arrested at higher rates](#)

Link 3: [An Unjust Burden | Vera Institute](#)

Link 4: [The History of Slave Patrols, Black Codes, and Vagrancy Laws | Facing History & Ourselves](#)

Link 5: [The Legacy of Slavery and Contemporary Racial Disparities in Arrest Rates - Matthew Ward, 2022](#)

that widen the racial wealth gap.<sup>12</sup> Structural biases continue to preserve a longstanding wage gap, leaving Black workers disproportionately vulnerable to underemployment and economic crises.<sup>13</sup> Economic freedom remains elusive as Black business owners face restricted access to commercial capital.<sup>14</sup>

Against this backdrop, the 161st commemoration of Juneteenth comes at a time when diversity initiatives face active erasure from public infrastructure, accelerated under the Trump administration's sweeping executive orders deleting public web pages, federal workforce programs, and historical resources related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). This wave of federal dismantling did not happen overnight, nor is it the work of a single presidential administration. It is the culmination of a coordinated, multi-year campaign led by conservative political strategists and heavily funded think tanks, including through operational blueprints for restructuring the federal executive branch and model legislation designed to dismantle diversity offices and programs across state-funded universities and agencies.<sup>15</sup>

Model legislation has been used to prohibit diversity offices, dismantle “minority-focused” public programming, and penalize institutions that acknowledge systemic racism. By successfully passing this legislation in test states like Texas and Florida, conservative activists built the legal, rhetorical, and political blueprints that now provide the federal executive branch with a roadmap and administrative mechanism to execute this erasure nationally.<sup>16</sup>

Over the past several decades, coordinated legal and legislative campaigns

---

<sup>12</sup> Link: [Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation \(LAEDC\)](#)

Link 2: [How the racial wealth gap has evolved—and why it persists | Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis](#)

Link 3: [Microsoft Word - 5\\_Tarantolo\\_10-16-06\\_final](#)

<sup>13</sup> Link 1: [The Impact of Structural Racism in Employment and Wages on Minority Women's Health](#)

<sup>14</sup> Link: [426 MM v1 19Sets YTV Z sxf1017607](#)

Link 2: [Small Business Financing: Where are the Gaps? • Bipartisan Policy Center](#)

Link 3: [New Survey Data Shows Black Small Business Owners Less Likely to Secure Loans | Goldman Sachs](#)

<sup>15</sup> Link 1: [North Carolina Bill to Ban DEI at Public Colleges Fails to Overcome Veto](#)

Link 2: [Goldwater Institute Higher Ed Model policy.pdf](#)

Link 3: [U.S. Department of Education Takes Action to Eliminate DEI | U.S. Department of Education](#)

<sup>16</sup> Link: [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

Link 2: [Anti-DEI Laws Take Aim at Students of Color and LGBTQ+ Students | NEA](#)

Link 3: [WUSF](#)

successfully initiated the erasure of key civil rights frameworks and public accountability data. Mainstream political organizations, civil rights groups, and corporate boards underestimated this early systemic erosion as short-lived, hyper-partisan public relations conflicts.<sup>17</sup> Because of this fragmented institutional defense, long-term strategic funding and targeted litigation successfully dismantled foundational protections — such as federal voting preclearance and equity-tracking databases — resulting in the erasure of decades of legislative progress.<sup>18</sup>

Local Juneteenth celebrations have not escaped these active attempts at erasure. Under the weight of federal anti-DEI mandates, the city of Scottsdale, Arizona, closed its DEI office, which had quietly observed Juneteenth internally since the 1990s before expanding the commemoration into a large public forum. Following the dissolution of this administrative backbone—capping decades of organizational development and official observance—the city's annual Scottsdale Juneteenth Festival was canceled.<sup>19</sup>

In response to federal anti-DEI directives, corporate legal teams have increasingly pulled back on public DEI alignment, leading to a sharp reduction in private-sector sponsorships for community-led cultural holidays like Juneteenth.<sup>20</sup> Public celebrations and nonprofit cultural events have faced immediate funding shortfalls, forcing organizers to scale back major public observances. Corporate sponsors abandoned Juneteenth

---

<sup>17</sup> Link: [Closing Civic Space in the United States: Connecting the Dots, Changing the Trajectory | Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#)

Link 2: [Defending Civic Space in the United States: Lessons Learned Around the World | Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#)

Link 3: [Trump Administration Civil and Human Rights Rollbacks: By Issue Area](#)

<sup>18</sup> Link 1: <https://www.aclu.org/news/racial-justice/the-infrastructure-of-racial-justice-is-under-attack-we-must-fight-for-it>

Link 2: <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-releases-legal-legislative-and-advocacy-roadmap-to-combat-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-threats-posed-by-a-second-trump-term>

Link 3: [Trump's EEOC plans to scrap discrimination-fighting tools : NPR](#)

Link 4: [Disappearing Federal Data: Implications for Addressing Health Disparities | KFF](#)

<sup>19</sup> Link 1: <https://www.kjzz.org/politics/2025-03-17/scottsdale-cuts-juneteenth-celebration-employee-resource-groups-as-city-shutters-dei-office>

Link 2: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/scottsdale/2025/03/17/scottsdale-dei-cuts-juneteenth-hispanic-chamber/82323850007/>

Link 3: <https://www.12news.com/article/news/local/valley/scottsdale-dei-programs-face-cutbacks-after-city-council-decision/75-f3adf35f-316f-4160-b825-df85882c7b5d>

<sup>20</sup> Link 1: [Trump Administration Revokes EO 11246, Prohibits 'Illegal' DEI: What the EO Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity Means for Employers - Jackson Lewis](#)

Link 2: [Juneteenth celebrations adapt | AP News](#)

celebrations like the Denver Juneteenth Music Festival, citing compliance fears and risk aversion.<sup>21</sup> This sudden funding loss threatened an event that had served the Denver region for nearly 70 years.

Federal cultural agencies have also rescinded funding for grassroots celebrations. The National Endowment for the Arts and other entities canceled pre-approved grants, including a \$25,000 award for San Diego's Cooper Family Foundation Juneteenth Festival, citing misalignment with current federal priorities.<sup>22</sup>

Additionally, fear of scrutiny has forced events out of federal jurisdictions entirely to insulate public partnerships that support local Juneteenth celebrations. For example, an NAACP branch in Middlesex County, New Jersey, was compelled by federal site administrators to relocate its annual festival away from the grounds of the Edison Job Corps Center.<sup>23</sup>

It has seldom been more important to ensure that Angelenos have opportunities to commemorate Juneteenth. Throughout the month of June, several County departments will provide free cultural programming, including free admission to the Natural History Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, as well as free Juneteenth programs offered by the Los Angeles County Library. To ensure this programming benefits as many Angelenos as possible, all County departments should promote events and programs hosted by County museums, the County Library, and other departments providing Juneteenth programming (as listed in Attachment A).

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. In honor of June 19, 2026, as Juneteenth in the County of Los Angeles (County), encourage all County departments to collaborate with the County Library and other

---

<sup>21</sup> Link: <https://denverite.com/2025/05/06/bonfils-stanton-awards-rapid-response-grant-money-following-nea-cuts/>

<sup>22</sup> Link 1: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/06/21/san-diegans-celebrate-juneteenth-with-music-history-and-community/>

Link 2: <https://www.binnews.com/content/2025-06-17-juneteenth-celebrations-prevail-amid-trump-administrations-attack-on-dei/>

<sup>23</sup> Link 1: <https://pallone.house.gov/media/press-releases/pallone-says-cancellation-edison-juneteenth-event-latest-example-trump-era>

Link 2: <https://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/news/local/2025/03/27/trump-dei-juneteenth-event-in-nj-relocated/82676709007/>

relevant departments to amplify their Juneteenth programming across websites and social media platforms.

2. Encourage all County departments to promote the Juneteenth free-admission opportunities at Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and the Natural History Museum (NHM) across their public platforms and social media channels.
3. Request that the Chief Executive Officer coordinate with LACMA and the NHM to highlight specific collections that speak to the African American experience as part of the Juneteenth promotional campaign.
4. Encourage residents of the County to participate in Juneteenth events and activities across the County, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of this historic day and its ongoing relevance to our community.

# # #

(CAS)

## **Attachment A**

### **Free Admission to the Natural History Museum**

- **Location:** 900 Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007
- **Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026
- **Time:** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- **About:** The Natural History Museum will provide free admission to all guests, regardless of residence.

### **Free Admission to La Brea Tar Pits Museum**

- **Location:** 5801 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036
- **Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026
- **Time:** 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- **About:** La Brea Tar Pits Museum will provide free admission to all guests, regardless of residence.

### **Free Admission and Art Parade at LACMA**

- **Location:** 5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036
- **Date:** Saturday, June 20, 2026
- **Time:** 10:00 am – 7:00 pm
- **About:** LACMA will provide free admission as well as a free public community block party.

### **Free Admission and Jazz Concert at LACMA**

- **Location:** 5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036
- **Date:** Friday, June 19, 2026
- **Time:** 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- **About:** LACMA will provide free admission to LA County Residents (with valid ID) and a free jazz concert at 6:00 pm.

## **Celebrate & Create: Juneteenth**

- **Location:** East Rancho Dominguez Library, 4420 E. Rose St, Compton, CA 90221
- **Date:** Thursday, June 18, 2026
- **Time:** 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- **About:** An educational workshop exploring the history of Juneteenth and the concept of community freedom through hands-on creative learning activities.<sup>24</sup>

## **Juneteenth Freedom Stickers**

- **Location:** Lennox Library, 4359 Lennox Blvd, Lennox, CA 90304
- **Date:** Thursday, June 11, 2026
- **Time:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **About:** Teens (ages 13–18) will explore the history of Juneteenth and how it led to freedom, followed by a craft session where they decorate their own commemorative "freedom stickers."<sup>25</sup>

## **It's a Juneteenth Parade!**

- **Location:** Carson Library, 151 E Carson St, Carson, CA 90745
- **Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026
- **Time:** 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
- **About:** Children (ages 5–11) can join Emmy-winning actress Ina Buckner-Barnette (Ina Sunshine) for an engaging hour of storytelling, interactive games, and traditional songs to celebrate Freedom Day.<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>24</sup> Link: [Celebrate & Create: Juneteenth - LA County Library](#)

<sup>25</sup> Link: <https://visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/16461374>

<sup>26</sup> Link: <https://visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/16238743>

## **Celebrate Juneteenth! Poetry Activity**

- **Location:** Carson Library, 151 E Carson St, Carson, CA 90745
- **Date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2026
- **Time:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **About:** Designed for teens (ages 13–17) as part of the My Brother’s Keeper program, this session covers the history of the holiday and includes a guided poetry workshop to express reflections on freedom, joy, and community.<sup>27</sup>

## **Celebrate Juneteenth: Family Storytime**

- **Location:** Compton Library, 240 W Compton Blvd, Compton, CA 90220
- **Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2026
- **Time:** 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
- **About:** Families and children (ages 5–12) will discover the history and symbols of resilience, liberation, and joy behind Juneteenth, concluding with a themed art extension activity.<sup>28</sup>

## **Juneteenth Freedom Buttons**

- **Location:** Woodcrest Library, 1340 W 106th St, Los Angeles, CA 90044
- **Date:** Thursday, June 18, 2026
- **Time:** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
- **About:** Tweens and teens (ages 12–18) will look back at how we honor those affected by slavery and then design and press their own wearable button art to take home.<sup>29</sup>

---

<sup>27</sup> Link 1: <https://visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/16555355>

Link 2: <https://lacountylibrary.org/celebrate-juneteenth/>

<sup>28</sup> Link 1: <https://visit.lacountylibrary.org/event/16540776>

<sup>29</sup> Link: [Juneteenth Freedom Buttons - LA County Library](#)